

Campfire Night Was a Success!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Community Campfire Night! We were blessed to welcome more than 20 attendees for an evening filled with fellowship, laughter, and meaningful conversation.

Guests enjoyed plenty of delicious food, relaxing around the fire pits, and the opportunity to connect with both old friends and new faces. It was a wonderful reminder of how simple moments spent together can strengthen our community.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our church members whose generous donations of food, desserts, supplies, and time made



this event possible. Your willingness to serve and support this outreach helped create a warm and welcoming evening for everyone who attended.

We are so grateful to everyone who helped make Community

Campfire Night such a success, and we look forward to gathering together again soon!

Molly Coralluzzo &

Matt Dechen, Chairs

Rally Day for Sunday School

Calling all Sunday School students!

We'll be back in session on Sunday, September 13.

We'll start at 9:30 a.m. during the worship service by welcoming the kids with a Children's Message by Dave Fish and songs from VBS.

After church all families are invited to join us downstairs for refreshments. Then our first Sunday School special event for



the fall will be at 10:45 a.m.

Join us as we learn and grow together!

Mark Your Calendars!
November 7: Bazaar



St Paul's will be hosting the Red Cross Blood Drive on:

- **Friday, Sept. 25, 12-5**

Our nation's blood supply is fragile. There is a significant need for blood donors! Please consider donating at this or any local drive.

Contact the Red Cross at 800-RED-CROSS or at www.redcross.org to schedule your appointment today!

Prayer REQUESTS

ALL Prayers:

For our country—250th birthday!
 For peace and those affected by war
 For all those in the world who are hungry
 For everyone who is ill
 Cameron H had procedures & family
 Sharon R undergoing treatment
 Logan S visit to surgeon
 Bernice N health & life changes
 Chris M another major change
 Len H oral cancer
 Drew F home needs prayer & Elizabeth
 Mark D serious health challenges & family
 Pastor Dave
 Don S A-fib episode
 Noah new job
 Brandy difficult personal situation
 Sandy D health difficulties
 Dottie D praise feeling better
 All on vacation or traveling
 Joe & Linda B in Hawaii for hurricane
 Danielle M at risk for cancer
 Family & friends of Chuck S
 Sandy D trouble breathing
 Lucy & baby Isabella
 Family & friends of Dave P
 A couple struggling w health ins
 Young disabled man seeking apt
 Family & friends of Kate M
 Jennifer's father rushed to hosp
 Sharon E eye surgery & health issues
 Pat H in Atlas
 David W chemo postponed heart issues
 Mary Ann many concerns
 Bernice N praise 96th birthday
 Praise for Vacation Bible

School
 Praise for Community
 Campfire Night
 Rev. Howard P recov heart surgery
 Eileen D lost sister
 Esther cancer not doing well
 Lucy pregnancy problems
 Jackie G fell bruised needs healing
 John H surgical infusion procedure
 Jim K Sr health challenges
 Evelyn R age 4 fractured leg
 Alice K moved to daughter's home
 Rev Howard P rehab after heart surg
 Rev Joyce M health challenges
 Rev. Harold G double lung transplant
 Family & Friends of Senator Graham
 Donna S health issues
 S family many health concerns
 Oaken age 3 Type 1 diabetes & parents
 Family & friends of Joanie
 Nick P retinal replacement
 Family & friends of Joan P
 Bruce P accident
 Deb P lost 2 friends
 Red Bird Team in Kentucky
 H family travel mercies
 John T & firefighters in Colorado
 Jerry L lung cancer
 Jeanne taken to hosp

Every week: All those in need, unspoken requests, all service men/women, our nation and leaders.

Serving in the Military:

Caitlyn Um, Erynn Plasket,
 Dan Solano, Chris Yard,
 Rachel Rachuba, Donna
 Rachuba, Ed Schwebel,
 Brandon Howell, Shaina
 Serrano, Lance Vreeland, PJ
 Jordan, Destiny Brooke,
 Manuel Tineo

Shut-Ins & Nursing Home Residents:

Sandy D., Bernice N., Rosie P.,
 Gloria L., Mary B., Sue T.
 Chris M., Pat H., Dottie D.

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1— Jacqueline Clement
- 2— Colin Grassia
- 5— Bela Debrececi
- 5— Cathy Hurff
- 7— Merryjeanne Minder
- 9— Doris DuBois
- 9— Margaret Gogolin
- 11— Alice Kern
- 11— Ellie Luoma
- 12— Mario DiVento
- 12— Sann Smith
- 13— Christian White
- 13— Rudy Soderlund
- 14— Rebecca Gibson
- 14— Danielle Ferrara
- 18— Ginny & Rich Gibson
- 19— Sandy Daws
- 20— Dana & Steve Kovack
- 21— Casey Kovack
- 21— Amanda Kaiser
- 22— Mary Ann & Larry Jones
- 24— Diane Favretto
- 24— Mike Minder
- 28— Olivia Ferrara
- 28— Sandy & Jack Spellman
- 30— Cailyn Houghton



October Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1— Ron Cervantes
- 1— Michelle & Kevin Wright
- 2— Claire Lorraine
- 4— Merrilee Chappell
- 4— Ashley Dugan
- 5— Sandi DiLeo
- 5— Nancy Huebshman
- 7— Angela & Jason Houghton
- 8— Victor Ferrara
- 11— Aubrey McLaughlin
- 11— Bob Rowand
- 12— Leisa Keegan
- 12— Deb Dameika
- 13— Anthony Panetta
- 14— Chris McGee
- 16— Molly & Marc Coralluzzo
- 17— Jacqueline Gullifer
- 17— Ann & Jay Hamel
- 17— Elliemae Rutter
- 17— William Rutter
- 20— Mary Sierocinski
- 21— Cindy Fifis
- 22— Dana Kovack
- 24— Donna & Wayne Sierocinski
- 25— Rori Beidle
- 27— Rich & Diane Favretto
- 28— Debbie Richman
- 28— Cheri Clement
- 29— Sharon & Gary Rutter
- 29— Hillary Toppin
- 30— Joe Bryan Jr.
- 31— Jack Heritage

THE LAMPLIGHTER

Bimonthly Newsletter of
 St. Paul's United Methodist
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Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.

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Welcoming the Stranger

**"Everyone can see we're together!
As we walk on by!"**

Those are the words from one of the verses of Sister Sledge's hit song, 'We Are Family,' that is sung at almost every wedding reception anywhere in the world.

I am sure that you know the words and have probably danced to the music! We are family. I got all my sisters with me! We are family! Get up everybody and sing!

The cover of this year's West Deptford Township's annual cover has my smiling face on it because the photo they used came from this year's National Day of Prayer program, which St. Paul's is responsible for running each year. To me it is the essential example of community and of our fulfilling God's call to love and welcome everyone! Welcome the stranger, Jesus declares ... "my followers will be known by their love!" If you look carefully, you will see an imam, a Lutheran pastor, an AME pastor, police chaplains, my Muslim poet friend, and of course this United Methodist pastor.

As we head into the autumn of the year, I am focused on our need to share love with each other. To welcome others with love and to actually obey God and Jesus Christ despite the divisions that are encouraged throughout our nation.

Most of you are aware of the personal challenges that my family has gone through as summer waned, directly impacting me. I have had total strangers embrace me, care for me and show love for me. There was the security guard named Dave at the Sentara Hospital in Virginia Beach. As he hugged me



one day he said, "Dave, if you need me, you know that they can find me and I'll be there for you." I don't even know his last name and our friendship began when he told me, "Buffalo Bills shirts are not allowed in the hospital."

Then there was DonnaLyn from Jamaica in the hospital's Oncology Unit ... she hugged me every day that I was there and softly asked how I was ... me, a complete stranger, and she had so many others she had to care for. The waitress at Huntley's who gently put her hand on my shoulder because she said I looked sad. The guy from Brooklyn at the bagel shop, who just made me laugh and my second time getting a bagel asked why this guy from New Jersey was in Virginia and I told him.

Part of our responsibility as Christians is hospitality. In Ezekiel, we discover that the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was their failure to be hospitable. I think we all know that the second commandment of Jesus and therefore of God is to love all of our neighbors. In that love we are to reach out to our neighbors, inviting them to discover God just as we have.

So in the coming months I want to again challenge all of you. I have once again rediscovered how life all

too often does not follow a pattern we would prefer. As DonnaLyn told me, "We don't know what day we will be born on, and we don't know what day we will stop breathing, but in between those days we get to choose how we live."

My challenge for this "new church year" (yes, it is bizarre that we establish an active church year from September through May but that's what we do) is that each of us agrees to invite friends and family to St. Paul's, whether to worship with us in person or online. By next May, I would like to have at least 15 more people worshipping in church with us each week.

Again, I want to thank the St. Paul's family for caring for me and caring for my family. It has been my privilege to serve as your pastor since 2016 and your love means the world to me. I was once a stranger and you welcomed me.

Blessings,

Pastor Dave



Outreach

Fall Missions Help Teens

Looking forward to cooler weather and more mission work!

Upcoming Mission Projects & Offerings

- **September**
 - ◇ Our first Sunday offering (Sept 6) will go to Shared Ministries to support United Methodist causes worldwide.
 - ◇ On the third Sunday (Sept 20) the mission offering will benefit UrbanPromise.

UrbanPromise is a Christian nonprofit youth organization in Camden, New Jersey. It provides youth educational and developmental programs. These include an alternative high school, an elementary/middle school, after-school programs, summer camps, teen job training, boat building, environmental and experiential learning.

- **October**
 - ◇ Our first Sunday offering (Oct 4) is World Communion Sunday Offering.
 - ◇ On the third Sunday (Oct. 18) the mission offering is for Ranch Hope.

Ranch Hope, a South Jersey United Methodist ministry, cares for at-risk teens who need the structure and faith-based ministry to get their lives back on track. Founded by the late Rev. Dave Bailey.

Thank you all so much for your support! of all our Outreach & Mission projects!

Cheri Clement

Red Bird Mission Team 2026



Back in 2016-2017, Pastor Dave's first year in ministry here at St. Paul's, a team was formed to go to Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky, and we have gone every year since. This year's team consisted of Cheri & Jim Clement, Sue & Tim Hogan, Pastor Dave, Mary Ann, and Scott Graboyes. We honored the team on August 9.

Pastor Dave said, "One of the amazing things of Red Bird is the memories that you make. There are lifelong special days in my life that came from Red Bird. We have gone and helped numerous people."

In 2018, Jim Clement went to Red Bird, and it touched his heart. He decided to step up and take on leadership of the Red Bird Team. Thanks to Jim and his constant collection of metal for recycling, plus leading a hoagie sale each year and taking a special collection from the church, we are able to almost fully fund our trips. Many thanks to Jim and Cheri!

Jim thanked everyone who has ever been to Red Bird, plus all in the congregation who helped over the

past seven years. "It really changed my life," he said, "after being down there and seeing how these folks lived. I felt like I lived in a mansion and was a millionaire."

Tim Hogan said, "Sue and I went to Red Bird in 2006 for the first time. The more of this type of work you do, the more you want to do." Sue added, "The first time down there, we took our kids. It was a blessing."

Scott said, "It's been my extreme pleasure to work with all of the members of the church at Red Bird. I thank you for making me part of the team." Scott worked for Habitat for Humanity for six years building houses, so he has skills!

Mary Ann said, "This year there were something like 70 teenagers in camp. The kitchen was overwhelmed, because those teenagers sure can eat! So after the first day, I stayed back in the kitchen and helped get the food prepped for these very hungry campers. It was great."

"Going on a mission trip is a life-changing experience," concluded Pastor Dave.



Choral Celebrations:

We welcome all members of the congregation to join the choir for our regular service presentations starting in September.

The first rehearsal is Thursday September 17 at 6:45pm till 8pm We will continue rehearsals every Thursday and provide music for the church services every Sunday morning starting on September 20.

There is no audition - JUST JOIN US!! We would love to have you in the choir!

Thank you,
Bela Debreceni



Bible Reading - Time to Connect

Come join us after church Sunday service in the Jay Jordan room.

Beginning Sunday September 13th we will set aside time to read the Bible and sharing is welcome.

Don Strock

Calling all Women to Bible Study!



Women's Bible Study returns for Fall!

Our new book is "The Women of Christmas" by Liz Curtis Higgs.

We will start meeting on Wednesday, September 16, and continue weekly in the Sanctuary from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Book cost is \$9.00

Please see Patty Fish to reserve your copy in advance. Additional ways to contact Patty via email at pattymfish@hotmail.com or text/call 609-209-5391.

All women are welcome & encouraged to attend.

See you soon,
Patty Fish

Fellowship Is Back! Please Sign Up!

Our After-Church Socials will begin again on September 13th. We need volunteers to bring snacks and help with setup and cleanup. There will be a sheet passed around in church, so please sign up!

Many thanks to Nancy Huebshman, who has been donating supplies to keep us going! And to Peggy and John Pagano, who always help clean up!

Fellowship has always been an important part of our church and it has been very quiet down in Hickman Hall all summer. Help us change that by coming downstairs after church each week for coffee, snacks, and good conversation. Loving each other is part of our mission!



Molly Coralluzzo,
Fellowship Coordinator

Help Needed for Family Fun Day!

We are registered for West Deptford Family Fun Day on September 19. Volunteers both young and old are welcome, and we need a new leader after the sad loss of Jim Verfaillie.

It will be a great time to offer St. Paul's as a welcoming place for all of our neighbors to worship. So many are lost, need hope and may not have a church they call their own. Our goal to share everything that we offer for our community. We pray that everyone may come to know how having Jesus in their lives matters.



So we can really use your help!
Why not volunteer?

Contact Pastor Dave to volunteer or with questions.

THANK YOU!



THANKS TO HELPERS! We have so many that help during our worship services that it's impossible to get pictures or name them all. But here are a few that help by singing, playing, reading scripture, greeting, taking offerings, getting communion ready, and many other things. One of the spiritual gifts is service, and we are so blessed that we have so many members willing to serve!

HONORING RED BIRD MISSIONARIES: On August 9, we honored not only this year's Red Bird Team, shown, but also all the other members who have traveled to Red Bird over that past 20-plus years.



↑ **CONGRATULATIONS** to Len and Cathy Hurff, who celebrated their 60th anniversary with a renewal of vows here at St. Paul's. It was a lovely service, and those that attended enjoyed a lovely luncheon afterward.



← **OCEAN CITY TABERNACLE:** A group of ladies from our Women's Bible Study went to Ocean City in July to hear author and tv host Susie Larson. Our group read a book by Susie a couple years ago. We enjoyed hearing her speak, and then went to the Tuckahoe Inn for lunch. Many thanks to Patty for organizing this trip!



← **SPECIAL MUSIC** is something we all enjoy over the summer. Many thanks to our Music Director, Bela, for organizing all the soloists and groups that sang for us. Shown is the men's choir that performed on Father's Day.

Children's Ministry



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: We had a turnout of 49 kids for our annual VBS, including 13 teen helpers, plus 20-something adult leaders and helpers. The kids had a blast! A million thanks to our Director and Faith Leader Elaine Luoma and Creative Director and Bible Story Teacher Mary Ann Jones, who both went above and beyond in making this an awesome week for the kids. And thanks to the many leaders and helpers. We couldn't do it without you!

SOUP SUNDAY

1st Sunday of the month

Next Soup Sundays 10/4 and 11/1
No soup in September.

Order online or by calling or seeing
Mary Ann Jones.

Thanks to Ish at the PISTON Diner
for the delicious soup!



SAVE THE DATE! CHURCH CONFERENCE



ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, November 5, 2026
6 p.m. Hickman Hall
Meet our District Superintendent!

Undies and Sneakers Still Needed!

Yes, that's right, we're collecting undies, still, in September! We collect underwear each year to support the ministries of Seeds of Hope in Camden.

Seeds of Hope has three programs to help people. "My Father's Hands" aids those who find themselves on the streets of Camden. "South Jersey AfterCare" helps those recently released from prison re-enter life outside the bars. "She Has A Name" ministers to

women struggling in bondage to drugs and prostitution.

Here's what's needed:

1. Women's boy-cut underwear, size small
2. Low cut women's socks
3. Women's used or new sneakers

Thanks to Chris & Charlie Taylor for heading up this meaningful mission project!

Bazaar Is Coming Up!

Bazaar & Yard Sale November 7.

Members, please bring your treasures to the church by Sunday, Nov. 1! We will accept household items, holiday decorations, linens, white elephants, jewelry, handbags, and accessories. **PLEASE NO CLOTHING!**



We will hold our annual Sunday School Bazaar & Yard Sale on Saturday, November 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine.

Items for sale include holiday decorations, jewelry, boutique, baked goods, deli items, and yard sale/white elephants.

Breakfast and lunch will be served, including homemade cinnamon buns and homemade soup. Bring the family!

All proceeds benefit the Sunday School, allowing us to purchase materials and offer Vacation Bible School.



GREEN CANDLE OF HOPE is lit each week in church to help us pray for those suffering from cancer. Our prayers go out to all those who need them, whether suffering from cancer or some other problem. **We are a praying church!**

St. Paul's Calendar

September-October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30am Worship 14th Sun after Pent	31	September 1 10:00am Deptford Designers	2 7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	3	4	5 8:00am Men's Breakfast Pistons 8:00pm AA meeting
6 9:30am Worship 15th Sun after Pent Second Offering: Shared Ministries No soup this month	7 Labor Day	8 9:00am Food Pantry setup HH	9 7:00am Holy Communion 8:30am St. Paul's Food Pantry 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	10	11	12 1:00pm Choir picnic at Bela's 8:00pm AA meeting
13 9:30am Worship-Rally Day 16th Sun after Pent	14	15 10:00am Deptford Designers	16 7:00am Holy Communion 8:00am Men's Breakfast Pistons 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	17 7:00pm Choir practice	18	19 8:00pm AA meeting
20 9:30am Worship 10:30am Megan's Pretzel Sunday 17th Sun after Pent 2nd offering: Urban Promise	21 7:00pm Leadership Team	22	23 7:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	24 5:00pm Woman's Club Using HH 7:00pm Choir practice	25 12:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive	26 8:00pm AA meeting
27 9:30am Worship Family Promise Week 18th Sun after Pent	28	29 Church Conf Reports Due	30 7:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	October 1 7:00pm Choir practice	2	3 8:00am Men's Breakfast Pistons 8:00pm AA meeting
4 9:30am Worship 11:00am Soup Sunday World Communion Sunday Offering 19th Sun after Pent	5	6 10:00am Deptford Designers	7 7:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	8 7:00pm Choir practice	9	10 8:00pm AA meeting
11 9:30am Worship 20th Sun after Pent	12 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day	13 9:00am Food Pantry setup HH	14 7:00am Holy Communion 8:30am St. Paul's Food Pantry 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	15 7:00pm Choir practice	16	17 8:00pm AA meeting
18 9:30am Worship 10:30am Megan's Pretzel Sunday Mission offering: Ranch Hope 21st Sun after Pent	19	20 10:00am Deptford Designers	21 7:00am Holy Communion 8:00am Men's Breakfast Pistons 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	22 7:00pm Choir practice	23	24 8:00pm AA meeting
25 9:30am Worship 6:00pm Rowan Jazz Band (sanctuary & Hall) 18th Sun after Pent 22nd Sun after Pent	26	27	28 7:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	29 7:00pm Choir practice	30	31 Halloween 8:00pm AA meeting



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Bible Verse of the Month for September:

**Lamentations 3:23: "Because of the Lord's great love we
are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They
are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."**